

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-13 are pending. Claim 3 is currently canceled. The Examiner has indicated that claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 2. Please cancel claim 2. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Specification Objections

The Office Action essentially states:

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The specification has been amended to change the title as indicated above. The new title is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed obviating this objection.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto (US 2003/0001283) in view of Storli (US 6,885,101), in further view of Mong (US 2003/0235937). Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable, but objected to, claim 2. This amendment puts claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claim 13 depends upon amended independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto. Since amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, likewise so is claims 13.

The rejection of claims 1 and 13 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being purportedly unpatentable over Kumamoto (US 2003/0001283) in view of Storli (US 6,885,101), in further view of Mong (US 2003/0235937), has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hosomi (5726219). Independent claim 1 has been amended as indicated above and is in condition for allowance. Hosomi does not add the missing elements provided by the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1. Since claims 4-6, 9, and 10 depend upon amended

independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto, since amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, likewise so are claims 4-6, 9, and 10.

The rejection of claims 4-6, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hosomi (US 5726219) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Komiyama (US 5118567). Claims 7 and 8 depend upon amended independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto. The Examiner has not shown that Komiyama adds the missing elements provided by the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1. Since amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance, likewise so are claims 7 and 8.

The rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Komiyama (US 5118567) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli/Hosomi as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Komiyama (US 5118567). Claims 11 and 12 depend upon amended independent claim 1 and add further limitations thereto. Since claim 4 is in condition for allowance, and Komiyama does not teach the missing elements provided by the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1, claims 11 and 12 are now in condition for allowance.

The rejection of claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Kumamoto/Mong/Storli/Hosomi as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of Komiyama (US 5118567) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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